IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1 and 6-10 as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A method of distributing a number of reference clocks across a packet network, comprising:

providing a basis clock in a master node and one or more slave nodes;

encoding multiple reference clocks with respect to the basis clock in the master node to generate numerical information describing the reference ~~clock(s)~~ clocks in relation to the basis clock in the master node;

synchronizing the basis clock in each of the slave nodes to the basis clock in the master node using time-stamped synchronization packets; and

recovering ~~said one or more~~ at least one of said reference clocks at the slave nodes using said numerical information describing the reference ~~clock(s)~~ clocks in relation to the basis clock in the master node.

2. (Original) A method as claimed in claim I, wherein each slave basis clock is synchronized to the master basis clock.

3. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein each slave basis clock is synchronized to the master basis clock using PLL.

4. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the reference clocks are encoded within packets.

5. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 4, wherein the packets containing encoded reference clocks are transmitted at regular intervals.

6. (Currently amended) A packet network comprising:

a master node and one or more slave nodes, said master node and said slave nodes having basis clocks;

means for numerically encoding a plurality of reference clocks with respect to the basis clock in the master node to generate numerical information describing the reference ~~clock(s)~~ clocks with regard to the master's basis clock;

a sender for sending time-stamped synchronization packets to said one or more slave nodes;

a receiver at the slave nodes for receiving said time-stamped synchronization packets and synchronizing the basis clocks in the slave nodes with the basis clock in the master node; and

means at the slave nodes for recovering said reference clocks using said numerical information describing the reference ~~clock(s)~~ clocks with regard to the master's basis clock.

7. (Currently amended) A ~~method~~ packet network as claimed in claim 6, wherein each slaVe basis clock is synchronized to the master basis clock.

8. (Currently amended) A ~~method~~ packet network as claimed in claim 7, wherein each slave basis clock is synchronized to the master basis clock using PLL.

9. (Currently amended) A ~~method~~ packet network as claimed in claim 6, wherein the reference clocks are encoded within packets.

10. (Currently amended) A ~~method~~ packet network as claimed in claim 9, wherein the packets containing encoded reference clocks are transmitted at regular intervals.